

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Matter of:

U.S. National Phase Entry

Under 35 USC § 371 from

the International Application of

WALKER, Richard III

Int'l Application No. PCT/US00/09411

Filed in the RO/US on 07 April 2000

Entitled:	Absorbent Article With Improved Combination of Skin Feel and Fluid Handling
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EPA
4/24/02PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.112

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to Examination and computation of the fees for entering the captioned International Application into the U.S. National Phase, please preliminarily amend the above-identified application as follows and consider the following Remarks.

AMENDMENTSIN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims as follows:

6. (Amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 5 wherein said at least a portion of said absorbent core has a mean absorption pressure of greater than about 7 cm.

8. (Amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said topsheet comprises a formed thermoplastic film materials having a plurality of macroapertures and a multiplicity of microapertures wherein land area between the microapertures and the macroapertures is also provided with a plurality of microscopic, discontinuous, spaced regions that comprise depositions of a low surface energy material that create a surface energy gradient between the depositions and the underlying polymeric structure of the formed film.